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SXSW FILM ANNOUNCES EARLY FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS *Pee-wee's Big Holiday, Midnight Special, and Preacher Among Titles*

Austin, Texas – January 7, 2016 – The South by Southwest® (SXSW®) Film Conference and Festival announced a handful of titles set to premiere at the 2016 event, that together showcase the diverse range of topics and styles that make the SXSW festival a destination for discovery each March. Festival highlights announced today include: *Pee-wee's Big Holiday*, directed by John Lee and produced by Judd Apatow and Paul Reubens featuring Pee-wee Herman on a new adventure; Jeff Nichols' hotly-anticipated Sci-Fi drama *Midnight Special*, featuring Michael Shannon, Joel Edgerton, and Kirsten Dunst; Joe Berlinger's powerful behind the scenes look at the renowned life and business strategist in *Tony Robbins: I Am Not Your Guru*; Irene Taylor Brodsky's *Beware the Slenderman*, a searing expose on murder and internet memes; Athina Rachel Tsangari's irresistibly witty and festival favorite *Chevalier*; and Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg's episodic supernatural thriller, the comic book adaptation of *Preacher*. These films join the previously announced opening night film, Richard Linklater's *Everybody Wants Some*, as a first look into the buzzing pulse of SXSW culture.

"Though we are still in the thick of programming, each year we release a handful of films to provide an early peek into the festival. These smart, stylish, and diverse offerings from some of the most exciting talent working today reflect what the SXSW audiences have come to expect: great stories, well told," said Janet Pierson, Head of SXSW Film. "There is an iconic thread emerging, whether the return of beloved Pee-wee; explorations of larger than life characters like Tony Robbins, the imaginary Slenderman, and Preacher; the latest work from Jeff Nichols; and even "Manhood" explored in *Chevalier*. Audiences are in for a wild ride."

Now in its 23rd year, SXSW Film brings together creatives of all stripes over nine days to experience a diverse film line up and access to more than 500 Conference sessions with visionaries from all corners of the entertainment and media industries. SXSW 2016 takes place March 11-20 in Austin, TX.

The 2016 SXSW Film Festival will feature:

Beware the Slenderman (World Premiere)

Director: Irene Taylor Brodsky

In this horrifyingly modern fairytale lurks an online Boogeyman and two 12-year-old girls who would kill for him. The entrance to the internet quickly leads to its darkest basement. How responsible are our children for what they find there?

Chevalier

Director: Athina Rachel Tsangari, Screenwriters: Efthimis Filippou, Athina Rachel Tsangari
Six men on a fishing trip on a luxury yacht decide to play a game to compete. Things will be compared. Things will be measured. Songs will be butchered, blood will be tested. Friends will become rivals and rivals will become hungry. (Greece)

Cast: Yorgos Kentros, Panos Koronis, Vangelis Mourikis, Makis Papadimitriou, Yorgos Pirpassopoulos, Sakis Rouvas

Midnight Special (North American Premiere)

Director/Screenwriter: Jeff Nichols

A father goes on the run to protect his young son and uncover the truth behind the boy's special powers in the sci-fi thriller *Midnight Special*, a film as supernatural as it is intimately human.

Cast: Michael Shannon, Joel Edgerton, Kirsten Dunst, Adam Driver, Jaeden Lieberher, Sam Shepard

Pee-wee's Big Holiday (World Premiere)

Director: John Lee, Screenwriters: Paul Reubens, Paul Rust

In *Pee-wee's Big Holiday*, a fateful meeting with a mysterious stranger inspires Pee-wee Herman to take his first-ever holiday in this epic story of friendship and destiny.

Cast: Paul Reubens, Joe Manganiello, Jessica Pohly, Alia Shawkat, Stephanie Beatriz

Preacher (World Premiere)

Directors: Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg, Screenwriter: Sam Catlin

Preacher is a supernatural, twisted and darkly comedic drama that follows a West Texas preacher named Jesse Custer, who – along with his ex-girlfriend Tulip and an Irish vagabond named Cassidy - is thrust into a crazy world, much bigger than he is.

Cast: Dominic Cooper, Ruth Negga, Joseph Gilgun, Ian Colletti, W. Earl Brown, Lucy Griffiths

Tony Robbins: I Am Not Your Guru (World Premiere)

Director: Joe Berlinger

Granted unprecedented access, Berlinger captures renowned life and business strategist Tony Robbins behind the scenes of his mega seminar *Date with Destiny*, pulling back the curtain on this life-altering and controversial event, the zealous participants and the man himself.

Feature Films (with the exception of *Midnighters*) will be announced on Tuesday, February 2. *Midnighters*, all Short Films, and Music Videos will be announced on Tuesday, February 9.

In addition to nine full days of film screenings, the SXSW Film Conference will ultimately feature over 500 informative and entertaining sessions, including previously announced Featured Speakers **Jake Gyllenhaal**, **Sarah Green** and **Kerry Washington**, plus panels, workshops and mentor sessions. The conference presents topics that cover the film spectrum, and includes Convergence Programming (open to more than one badge type) at the intersection of Music, Film and Interactive.

Don't miss out on the creative and inspirational experience that only SXSW can deliver. Register and book your room today at sxsw.com/attend, and join us March 11 – 19, 2016 for unparalleled access to our sessions, screenings, parties, and the SXSW Trade Show. Save off the walk-up rate by purchasing before 11:59pm PT on Friday, January 15.

About SXSW

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The South by Southwest® (SXSW®) Conferences & Festivals offer the unique industry convergence of music, film, and Interactive technologies. Fostering creative and professional growth, SXSW is the premier destination for discovery. The event is a launch pad for innovative content with new media presentations, music showcases and film screenings providing exposure for creators and compelling entertainment for attendees. For more information, please visit sxsw.com.

SXSW March 11-20 | *Interactive March 11-15* | *Film March 11-19* | *Music March 15-20*

SXSW is proud to be an official qualifying festival for the Academy Awards® Short Film competition. The Best Narrative Short, Best Documentary Short and Best Animated Short winners become eligible for the Academy Awards.

SXSW 2016 is sponsored by Esurance, Mazda, Monster Energy Capitol One, Bud Light, McDonalds and *The Austin Chronicle*.

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Press Credentials: We are accepting applications for 2016 SXSW Press Credentials at sxsw.com/press. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, February 10, 2016 and walk-up requests will not be granted. Media approved for credentials will receive access to the limited block of hotel rooms held for Press at the discounted conference rates. Rooms are sold on a 'first come, first served basis'. The earlier you apply, the better your selection of hotel rooms.

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